



Dr. Constantine Papadakis  
President

September 18, 2006

The Honorable Dr. Tom Coburn  
United States Senate  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,  
Government Information and Homeland Security  
439 Senate Hart Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your July 27, 2006 letter regarding Drexel University's federally funded research projects. All of us here at Drexel work hard to maximize the value of every dollar received by the university, and have strict accounting procedures in place to verify that these funds are being properly used in accordance with the source of the funds including alumni, corporate partners, the funding agencies that award us research grants, and parents, who trust us to provide the best education possible to their children. You may be aware that Drexel University was the first non-for-profit institution in the country to adopt the spirit of the Sarbanes Oxley act by implementing its "best practices." (<http://www.drexel.edu/papadakis/sarbanes/>)

Academic institutions are one of the keystones to advancing scientific research, and they play a significant role to create new knowledge, educate students, commercialize technology, and support economic development. One source of these funds is from government agencies including federal, state and local government. Drexel does receive a small portion of its research funds through the public Congressional earmarking process, of which you have expressed an interest.

The federal government maintains public records of all appropriations by promptly recording them in the *Federal Register* as part of the overall record of legislation of the United States Congress, of which you are a member. In fact, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* had been publishing the record of congressional earmarks for higher education consistently since the early 1990s through until at least 2003.

In order to continue to work effectively with various government departments, agencies, bureaus and offices at the federal level, Drexel must meet its contractual obligations which include specific objectives or deliverables. As you may know, Program Managers from said departments and agencies strictly monitor the progress of our congressionally funded projects through visits, progress reports and by auditing funds received as earmarks. Failure to meet the outlined objectives of any program may result in the termination of the contract. In short, the standards to achieve quality and outcomes are ultimately measured by government officials with oversight responsibilities for these projects.

Internally, Drexel University has always used the highest set of standards for measuring the quality and outcomes of programs, projects and research activities implemented by faculty and staff. In particular, Article VII of the University's Code of Academic Policies 'Use of Research Funds' states that:

*"Drexel has the responsibility for monitoring grant/contract-related expenditures. Generally, it is expected that investigators pursue the research for which the funds, whether intramural or extramural, have been reasonably allocated...disregard for the intent or purpose of a defined project by using funds or resources for an unrelated purpose is contrary to well-accepted standards of research conduct."*

This is true for any funded research project, regardless of the source. Drexel also maintains an extensive group of professionals in its Office of Research that are responsible for coordinating, tracking, auditing and managing the compliance side of our research projects in collaboration with the principal investigators and the outside funding agencies. As a matter of fact, an internal Drexel officer is assigned to every research project to ensure that Drexel is meeting all of its legal obligations.

Drexel University does comply with all federal requirements to report its lobbying activities with the Internal Revenue Service. This information is also publicly available.

I invite you, Senator, to visit Drexel University to learn about our substantive educational and research programs including those funded by the federal government. To coordinate your visit with members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation, please feel free to contact Brian Keech, Vice President for Government and Community Relations at 215-895-2109 or Dr. Kenneth Blank, Vice Provost for Research at 215-895-6091. Most of our representatives have visited Drexel University before and are well-informed about the government's role in helping Drexel meet its academic mission.

I appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you and your staff. In the meantime, to learn more about Drexel's research initiatives please visit our website at <http://www.research.drexel.edu/>.

Sincerely,



Constantine Papadakis, Ph.D.  
President

cc: Dr. Kenneth Blank, Vice Provost for Research  
Brian T. Keech, Vice President, Government and Community Relations